

MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

June 8, 2009 – MINUTES

In attendance: Council Members: Tom Peluso, Betsy Garrigues, Stephanie Nelson, Vickie Groeneweg, Lori Marchak, Kathy Berg, Carolyn Robinson, Charlotte Kress, Jerry Johnson, Shelly Johnson, Jan Bjork and Bill Murdock; Advocacy Members: Dennis Cox (AMDD), Andrea Lower (Court Services), Eric Bryson (City Commissioner), Adina Smith (MSU Human Development Clinic), Jana Lehman (Mental Health America of Montana) and Diane Conti (Help Center); Guest: Toni Lucker (Health Department) and Pierre Martineau (West Yellowstone); and Staff: Glenda Howze.

Call to Order and Introductions – 12:06 PM.

Public Comment – Ms. Adina Smith noted that there has been a group working on better ways to provide various services in West Yellowstone for a long time, including ADSGC, Community Clinic, the Health Department, Mental Health Center, and Human Development Clinic (HDC). HDC has been sending an intern weekly but are struggling to keep things afloat. The group is looking to make things more sustainable. The Health Department and ADSGC have been going down but the community needs more and needs to participate more, especially financially. Further discussion was postponed until later in the agenda.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Bjork seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Resource Guide with Final Change Recommendations – Ms. Nelson introduced her Executive Assistant Toni Lucker who has been working on the update. This is the second formal revision. The critical content has not changed but only been updated and added to where possible. A student from the nursing program did the initial checking of the information and Ms. Lucker did a quality assurance check. The document has been emailed out and the Health Department would like to make the final changes and have the document finalized soon. Lengthy discussion on suggested changes.

Drop-in Center Update – The Center is continuing to be very successful. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Hope House on June 4th had great attendance.

Agency Reports including Campus Update – Mr. Peluso reported that two buildings have been contracted for – the new Hope House and the Dorothy Eck House, 4-plex efficiency apartments. The contractor will be chosen today under the construction manager process. ADSGC/Mental Health-Criminal Justice: Ms. Lower reported that there is not going to be a mental health court at this time. Right now they are pulling cases off the regular docket for a diversion program. The team working on this is Marty Lambert, Susan Wordal, Courtney Duchain, Peter Ohman and Andrea Lower. These cases are tracked and monitored and have other requirements associated with the diversion program. If successful the client's case can then be deferred or dismissed. Right now they are working with 10-12 cases and are uncertain of what their capacity will be.

Legislative Update – Mr. Peluso reminded the group about HB 130-132 and stated that HB 130 requires the County to develop and write a strategic plan for crisis services. He suggested that the LAC should be proactive and begin putting this plan on paper. Mr. Peluso stated that he believes that the plan should come from the LAC with buy-off by the Sheriff, Detention Center, County Attorney, Commission, etc. Lt. Robinson stated that she believes the plan should come from the Commission itself. Mr. Peluso stated that he would

entertain a motion that the LAC engage the process of working on a draft strategic plan for crisis services in Gallatin County. Mr. Cox suggested that the LAC check with Director Malloy before proceeding in case he already has something underway. Ms. Johnson made the motion as stated by Mr. Peluso. A lengthy discussion took place regarding this motion and idea. Ms. Bjork stated that she believes that the direction should come from the County Commission. Commissioner Murdock stated that he is in favor of the idea presented by Mr. Peluso but wants to make sure that efforts are not being duplicated and suggested a conversation with Mr. Malloy before proceeding. **This item will be on the next agenda.**

Service Provision in West Yellowstone – A needs assessment needs to be completed for this area. West Yellowstone needs to participate in all ways, including financially. Commissioner Murdock suggested to Mr. Martineau that the Town of West Yellowstone needs to step up with funding and the County will too. Mr. Martineau agreed to investigate this possibility. Ms. Smith stated that if the County and Town work on the funding piece, the service agencies will work on the needs assessment. A report will be made available at the next LAC meeting. Ms. Nelson stated that it will be very positive to have Pierre involved. Ms. Garrigues suggested that AWARE and YDI provide youth services in WY and should be involved in some way. Ms. Nelson also suggested that the schools should be involved also.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM